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correspondent finds little to choose between Peitoto and Mello, his sympathies are with the insurgents, because they are committed to the policy of putting civilians in place of military officers in all strongholds of power. Whether these promises will be fulfilled, if Mello be victorious, is a matter which our correspondent does not discuss. Military government is unquestionably a grave evil in Brazil, as it is elsewhere in Spanish America, but we apprehend that no substitute can be found for it at present. Mello, if elected President, would be compelled to exercise authority in the great towns of the provinces, and he could only do this by means of military garrisons. Political order in Brazil cannot be maintained by naval manœuvres.

COAL AND FOOD FOR THE SUFFERING.

The Tribune Fresh-Air Fund has given satisfaction to its great constituency through many years by certain special features which may furnish useful hints for the present winter. These features were the private payment of all expenses of organization and machinery, and the absolute security that every dollar contributed by the public should go direct to the person to be relieved, without deduction for cost of collection or outlay for organization. In consequence there has been an unusually generous popular support from all classes here, and from many widely scattered communities.

It has seemed to the Tribune, and to the public-spirited gentlemen who have associated themselves with it in this work, that the most happy results might flow from applying the same methods to the relief of distress in this city during the remaining months of this hard winter. They have no desire either to criticize the methods or to come in conflict with the operations of any existing charity. They wish rather to utilize the machinery of the best conducted charities now in operation, and to strengthen these by turning in that direction the stream of benevolence which has always flowed so generously at their previous calls.

They have thought it most important to do nothing likely to increase the existing drift of the idle and criminal classes toward this city; and are therefore desirous of avoiding, in any work they may undertake, as far as is consistent with common humanity, anything like furnishing free food or free lodgings to casual beggars or tramps on the streets. They believe that there are multitudes of readers of the Tribune who sympathize with the existing distress in this city, and would be glad to help to the extent of their means in relieving it, but often do not know just how. They propose, therefore, to assign the manager of the Tribune Fresh-Air Fund, the Rev. Willard Parsons, with his corps of assistants, to work in the poorer districts of this city, which he knows so well, throughout the remaining winter months. He will personally investigate cases of distress in the homes of poor people, and will cooperate in gaining such information with the best charities already engaged in a similar task—with most of which his previous experience has brought him into relations. Cases of real distress thus found they will undertake to relieve either through the machinery of the existing charities, or where essential by organizing the necessary machinery themselves.

1. To furnish coal to those in want, in quantities ranging, according to circumstances, from two pounds to half a ton.
2. To furnish, under similar circumstances and after similar investigation, plain and unadorned food in small quantities, ranging from fifty cents' worth to two dollars' worth of assorted articles.

3. To relieve cases of distress, where uncooked food does not seem so available, by furnishing small quantities of cooked food to be taken to the home and consumed with the family; and
4. To furnish to such contributors as may desire it tickets issued by existing charities for food and lodging, to be had either for a certain amount of work or gratuitously, to be carried in the pockets and given at discretion, instead of money, to casual cases of distress which may be thought worthy.

The salaries and expenses of those engaged in this work will be defrayed by the gentleman organizing it out of their private means. The expense of the free delivery, where necessary, of coal and uncooked food will be similarly defrayed. Every dollar given by the public in aid of this charity will be directly employed in buying a dollar's worth of coal, a dollar's worth of food, or in some way bringing a dollar's worth of relief for a person or family whose actual suffering condition has been previously ascertained by these trained men. Wherever it can be done economically, it will be spent through the existing charities, many of which are splendidly organized, already alive to the unusual necessities, and entitled to the most generous support from the abounding charity of New York. There are multitudes unfamiliar with their several names and special fields of work, but eager to be helpful in this time of distress. Many of these are already accustomed to contribute to the relief of suffering in this city through The Tribune Fresh-Air Fund, and will gladly add themselves now to its agency, as a sort of charitable clearing house, to direct their gifts to the causes they most wish to aid. If one desires to help relieve the destitution in a particular section of the city, or among a particular class of sufferers, or if another desires to give a particular kind of help, coal, or uncooked food, or cooked food, or lodgings, or merely a wood-yard, Mr. Parsons and his assistants know the most suitable agencies for each, and will turn that gift in that direction. Where no special object is designated, contributions will be directed to the relief of such distress as they have previously investigated by supplies of coal or food.

They have been engaged for some time in studying the situation and maturing the details of this work. Fuller particulars will be given from time to time, not only of methods but also of results. It will be sufficient now to say that from and after this date, any contributor desiring to furnish coal to the suffering poor of New York can have a ton delivered at the tenements, divided among four or more needy families, for every five dollars sent us. Any contributor desiring to furnish food can have five dollars' worth of oatmeal or rice, beans, pork or corned beef, crackers or bread, and coffee or tea and sugar purchased at wholesale rates and divided among three or four destitute families. Any contributor, desiring to give a casual applicant a chance to earn a supper and bed by work in a wood-yard or otherwise, can get them for the same purpose for so

much as five dollars or less. Contributions will be duly acknowledged in The Tribune, and reports will be published from time to time, of the progress and details of the work. A scrupulous account will be kept of all expenditures; and they will be audited, at the close of the winter, and reported on to the public by Messrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, William E. Dodge and Morris K. Jesup. And finally the public subscriptions for this Coal and Wood Fund are started this morning by Mr. Whitelaw Reid, with a subscription of One Thousand Dollars.

JUSTICE IN BROOKLYN.

The old year ends in Brooklyn with a crowning act of justice. McKane, Newton, Sutherland and numerous other lawbreakers of Grand Jury have been indicted by the Extraordinary Grand Jury. The offences charged against McKane are conspiracy, contempt of court, assault in the second degree, violation of the registry law and official misconduct. While he has been released under heavy bail, he is confronted with a batch of indictments for felonies which render his ultimate conviction and punishment almost a foregone conclusion. The Grand Jury has done its work with remarkable thoroughness. There are said to be as many as a hundred indictments against Grand Jurors and election officers.

This prompt and decisive action of the Grand Jury is a great victory for public morals and good government. McKane and his associates for their wanton violation of law and their rebellion against the authority of the courts raised an issue which had to be met without flinching by a aroused community. It was the issue of treason and rebellion against the State. If they had been allowed to commit crimes of that character with impunity, and to trample upon the writs of the Supreme Court, the authority of public law would have been fatally undermined. They have now been placed where they belong among indicted criminals and unless there be an almost incredible miscarriage of justice they will be wearing striped jackets before many weeks.

A DISAGREEABLE YEAR.

The year as they pass are crowded with events and they become with the progress of civilization more intricate and complex in wool and pattern; but each has its characteristic tone of coloring. The year 1893 has been pre-eminently an unsettled, disordered and disagreeable one. There has been no great war, the civil conflicts in Brazil and Nicaragua, the Spanish operations in Morocco, the skirmishes in Matabeland and the French invasion of Siam being incidents of slight importance. It has been, in the main, a painful year, yet the world has been rent and shaken with political turmoil, Anarchist unrest, social discontent and economic disturbance. There have been some things to inspire optimism, notably the Columbian Exposition with its marvels of pacific progress, the arbitration of the Behring Sea question, the great victory won in France for conservative Republicanism, and the awakening of public conscience in the United States disclosed by civic revolts against political rings and scandalous nominations for high office. While there are bright lines and gleams of radiance, the perspective of the year is a study of shadow and prevailing gloom. It reveals large areas of disaffection with existing institutions and social order. It tends to confirm the pessimist's suspicion that human government is becoming more unstable as the world advances in the arts of civilization, and that mankind, while growing wiser, is no happier as time goes on.

In Great Britain there has been a prolonged legislative conflict over the House Bill, fraught with partisanship and evil passion, and rendered inconclusive and barren by the suspensive veto of the House of Lords. Masterful as Mr. Gladstone's leadership has been, and invincible as is his faith in the ultimate triumph of his cause, the continuance of Irish discussions, the uncompromising hostility of the Unionists and the Prime Minister's falling health increase the uncertainties of the issue of another general election and the permanent reformation of jealous races in the United Kingdom. A feeling of discouragement and doubt is inspired by the present tendencies of English public life. The year has been one of hard trade, industrial depression and labor agitation, the coal miners' strike having been one of the most formidable and disastrous in English annals. Italy has been brought to the verge of national bankruptcy; the honor of its Ministers has been sullied by banking scandals; and a prolonged Cabinet crisis has undermined the stability of government. Germany has passed through an exciting election precipitated by the Government's determination to increase the military establishment in anticipation of a coalition between France and Russia. While the Emperor has been victorious, he is confronted with an enormous increase of the Socialist vote, which menaces the future welfare of the Fatherland. France has emerged from the Panama scandals and reactionary intrigues with a stronger and more conservative Parliament, but many great reputations have been utterly wrecked, and the tone of public life has been lowered by the year's revelations of immorality and corruption. Equally discouraging has been the experience of the republics of Central and South America, with revolutions and dictatorships in many countries, with civil war and financial collapse in Argentina and with a ruinous war in Brazil.

What is most disheartening is the war proclaimed on all forms of government and social order by the Anarchists. Their activities have been increased in every European country, and their fanaticism and frenzy are dreaded alike in France, where they have created a scene of terror in the Chamber of Deputies; in Spain, where their outrages have been more numerous; in Germany and Russia, where they have defied the resources of military power; in Belgium, where the Constitution has been amended after unceasing social agitation, and in Austria-Hungary, where momentous changes of political policy are in progress. The Anarchist is the most dangerous foe that has challenged the forces of European order for a generation. He is also the most difficult and evasive enemy to fight, since his campaign of destruction is planned underground and carried out in congenial darkness. The prevailing distress and depression enable the Anarchists to recruit their forces everywhere and to increase their resources for their anomalous warfare upon society.

At home the year has been the least prosperous, although not the most unpromising, for a generation. The election of President Cleveland and the complete restoration of democracy to power in Congress have been followed by financial depression, a stagnation of general business, a paralysis of nearly all forms of industry, a general shrinkage in values, and loss of employment and reduction of wages of hundreds of thousands of workmen. The repeal of the silver purchase clauses, accomplished after a protracted struggle, and the publication of the new tariff scheme, have failed to restore public confidence and to promote a revival of business. The old year will be rung out to the melancholy chime of "Hard times! Want and misery! Hard times!" Yet there is a clear note of promise rising above the doleful changes. The November elections revealed the quickness of the people to perceive the mistake made in suddenly reversing all the policies which had made American prosperity the marvel of the world for thirty years. The other half of the

learned so much from the disheartening experiences of the year as the United States, nor shows so resolute a determination to take them to heart and to profit by them in future.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE POLICE.

New-Yorkers who have the true interests of the community at heart must feel bitter disappointment over the failure of the Extraordinary Grand Jury to find indictments in the police cases on Friday. Judge Barrett's instructions were so clear and explicit that the decision of the jurors not to indict the accused officials causes general surprise and indignation. The evidence appeared to be plain enough—as plain as it was in the case of Police Captain Delany. If grand juries do not hold police officials to a strict account for serious lapses in duty, the Police Department is sure to sink into a still more deplorable condition than it is in at present. Indictments by grand juries and trials by petty juries are needed to convince police officers that the people of New York are in earnest in their determination to have an honest and efficient police force, which shall not be misused by Tammany Hall for the perpetration of election frauds and election crimes, and for the protection of the vicious and criminal classes. It is of the highest importance that police officers who abuse the powers conferred upon them to shield the vicious and disorderly elements in the population should be taught that neither long service nor conspicuous position nor political influence can save them from the consequences of their misdeeds. The Extraordinary Grand Jury has failed to make use of a great opportunity for improving the discipline and raising the standard of the Police Department. It is hard to understand how the jurors can reconcile their failure to act with the obligations of the oaths which they undertook, and with their responsibility for the conscientious discharge of their duties.

The recommendation of the Grand Jury that the police should cooperate with Dr. Parkhurst's society is futile and silly in the circumstances. Until Dr. Parkhurst made himself feared at Police Headquarters and in every police station in New York City all the efforts of his society to cleanse the city and to compel public officials to fulfill their plain duties were greeted with derision, insult and exasperation by police officers in every part of the town. Inspector Williams, whose case was before the Grand Jury last week, has not hesitated, in the hearing of numerous witnesses, to use the coarsest and most abusive language possible in regard to Dr. Parkhurst and his society, and he even went so far in an official report as to declare that the sworn statements of Dr. Parkhurst's officers and agents were falsehoods. Now, as to a question of venality between Dr. Parkhurst and Inspector Williams, it will not take long for this community to decide. The reports of Inspector Williams that certain disorderly places did not exist have been proved to be untrue by legal evidence. How grotesque and absurd it is then for the Grand Jury to ask police officials, who have betrayed malignant hostility and bitter hatred to Dr. Parkhurst's society, to cooperate with it. It is not by such recommendations of grand juries that any practical reforms are to be accomplished. What do the police captains and other officials care for presentations or recommendations? Indictments and trials and removals from office are the only things which they fear.

No intelligent citizen can doubt that an extensive conspiracy exists in the Police Department to protect officials who have been guilty of encouraging and shielding vicious and disorderly people on Manhattan Island. If the grand juries fail in their duty the incoming Legislature may have a task of greatest moment to take up.

THE ATTITUDE OF MODERN SCIENCE.

Some recent utterances of Herbert Spencer furnish conclusive evidence that that great thinker is by no means entirely satisfied with many of his earlier philosophical conclusions. In this respect he differs radically from many of his superficial followers, who appear to believe that the modern agnostic school of thought, of which Mr. Spencer is a distinguished representative, has spoken the last word on all the questions pertaining to man and the universe. Indeed, it is not too much to say that these flippant schoolists have, by their dogmatic assertions, done more to discredit true science than all the attacks of the conservative theologians combined.

But while these camp-followers of the army of science have been exulting over the downfall of supernaturalism, the great masters, whose disciples they profess to be, have been busy drawing or modifying many of their more radical conclusions. They have discovered that certain hypotheses which they once considered as good as proved are in some cases improvable and in others fairly possibly untrue. The change of attitude toward religion which this process of scientific reconstruction implies is exceedingly significant. It does not indeed mean that the agnostic is any nearer to believing in the so-called supernatural claims of religion than he was before. Perhaps it would be nearer the truth to say that the probability of a modulus existing between agnosticism and supernaturalism is becoming more remote every year. But in the latest utterances of the men who speak for a purely materialistic philosophy of the universe there is a marked absence of that transcendent tone toward religion that was at least suggested, if not actually expressed, in their earlier utterances. The truth is, modern science, in attaining to a consciousness of the fact that the limits of knowledge are impassable, has also come to believe that beyond those limits there is something, either a Being or a Power, whose existence, if it could be comprehended, would seem a greater marvel than the most extravagant claims of supernaturalism. In the domain of pure physical science alone recent investigations suggest that many of the fundamental formulas of the chemist may have to be rewritten in the light of a larger knowledge. The theory, for instance, that the differences between the various forms of matter are due